

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00478 121847Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /051 W

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P 121630Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6565

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EI

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: IRISH CHARTER POLICY

REF: STATE 50776

1. PURSUANT TO REFTEL WE CALLED MARCH 11 ON TOM NALLY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF CIVIL AVIATION AFFAIRS AT IRISH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND POWER. M.F. FAHY, WHO SENT LETTER TO TRANS INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES (TIA), WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING. WE PUT FORTH ALL THE POINTS MADE IN REFTEL AND WE EMPHASIZED OUR CONCERN OVER GOI POLICY ON CHARTERS. WE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED GOI ABANDONMENT OF ITS FIRST REFUSAL POLICY AND APPROVAL OF TIA FIVE-FLIGHT CHARGER PROGRAM TO BEGIN IN JUNE 1975.

2. FIRST POINT MADE BY NALLY IN REPLY WAS THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF "REVIVAL" OF FIRST REFUSAL CHARTER POLICY (PARA 1 REFTEL) INASMUCH AS THIS POLICY HAS BEEN IN EFFECT ALL ALONG AND HAS NEVER BEEN RESCINDED. NALLY CONTENDED THAT USG AGENCIES ARE AWARE OF GOI FIRST REFUSAL POLICY AND HE STATED THAT AT TIME OF DUBLIN LANDING RIGHTS NEGOTIATIONS THERE WAS TACIT AGREEMENT THAT GOI WOULD CONTINUE TO APPLY EN-ROUTE CONTROLS IN THIS MANNER WHILE USG WOULD CONTINUE OFF-ROUTE CONTROLS. NALLY WENT ON TO EMPHASIZE THAT GOI POLICY APPLIES TO ON-ROUTE CHARTERS ONLY AND THAT OFF-ROUTE PERMISSION IS GRANTED LIBERALLY IN PRACTICALLY ALL CASES, PROVIDING THE CHARTER IN QUESTION IS LEGAL.

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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00478 121847Z

3. FAHY NOTED THAT WHILE HIS LETTER TO TIA HAD DISAPPROVED FIVE TRAVEL GROUP CHARTER FLIGHTS, HE HAD GRANTED IN THE VERY SAME LETTER PERMISSION FOR SEVENTEEN AFFINITY CHARTERS, BOTH ON AND OFFROUTE. THUS, IRISH CIVIL AVIATION OFFICIALS FEEL STRONGLY THAT WHILE THEY APPLY ON-ROUTE CONTROLS THEY ARE EXTREMELY LIBERAL OTHERWISE, FURTHERMORE, THEY FEEL THAT THE SCHEDULED CARRIERS (AER LINGUS, TWA AND PAN AMERICAN) ARE GENERALLY ABLE TO MEET ON-ROUTE CHARTER DEMANDS. IN THIS CONNECTION, NALLY NOTED THAT CHARTER AT BELOW \$200/SEAT BUDGET IS WELL BELOW FORMER CAB GUIDELINES FOR CHARTERS (THIS WAS NOT, HOWEVER, THE REASON FOR THER REFUSAL.)

4. WE INFORMED NALLY THAT CAB STAFF ARE DISAPPROVING THREE AER LINGUS OFF-ROUTE APPLICATIONS (PARA 3 REFTEL). NALLY SAID HE WAS OF VIEW THAT CAB DENIES OFF-ROUTE APPLICATIONS FOR AER LINGUS IN ANY EVENT AND THAT HE COULD NOT RELATE REFUSAL TO TIA QUESTION.

5. AS INDICATED BY THE FOREGOING, THE IRISH CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES FEEL THAT THEIR POLICY IN GENERAL IS VERY LIBERAL AND THAT THEY RE JUSTIFIED IN CONTINUING ON-ROUTE AS OPPOSED TO OFF-ROUTE CONTROLS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDER THAT WE MAY PURSUE THIS FURTHER WITH THE IRISH AUTHORITIES.
MOORE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DUBLIN00478
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750086-0950
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750359/aaaacbea.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 50776
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: IRISH CHARTER POLICY
TAGS: EAIR, EI, US, (NALLY, TOM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006